

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 11-13.

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1. (Original) A composition consisting of a semi-interpenetrating network, which comprises at least one crosslinked water soluble derivative of a basic polysaccharide, which has primary and/or secondary amine groups, and a non crosslinked component, which comprises at least one anionic polysaccharide, wherein the anionic polysaccharide resides within the semi-interpenetrating polymer network.
2. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water soluble basic polysaccharide is chitosan or a derivative thereof.
3. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 2 wherein the basic polysaccharide is deacetylated chitin, re-acetylated chitosan, N-Carboxy methyl chitosan, O-Carboxy methyl chitosan or O-Hydroxy ethyl chitosan.
4. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the partially N-acetylated chitosan has a degree of acetylation in the range of 45% to 55%.
5. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 4]] wherein the non crosslinked component is hyaluronic acid.
6. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 5]] wherein the composition also includes one or other anionic polysaccharide components of the extra cellular matrix.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of a composition as defined in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 6]] which comprises crosslinking at least one water

soluble derivative of a basic polysaccharide containing primary and/or secondary amine groups, in the presence of at least one anionic polysaccharide, under conditions which avoid protonation of said primary or secondary amine groups and which also avoid reaction of hydroxyl groups or any other functional group on the anionic polysaccharide.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the crosslinking reaction is performed under neutral or slightly alkaline conditions, pH range 7 to 8.
9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the crosslinking reaction is carried out at a pH around 7.
10. (Currently Amended) A biomaterial comprising a composition as defined in ~~any one of claim~~ ^{[[s]] 1} ~~[[to 6]]~~.
- 11-13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) The ^{[[use]]} biomaterial as claimed in claim ^{[[13]]} 10 wherein the biomaterial is formed into a thin film, sponge, hydrogel, thread or non-woven matrix.